

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A server system for serving a customized information page to a user at a browser on request, comprising:  
5 a database of user configurations;  
means for obtaining information from the user referencing a record in the database of user configurations, the record being a record for the user;  
10 means for generating a template based on the record for the user;  
means for generating a template based on the record for the user;  
a plurality of user processes, one process per user accessing the server system;  
a shared memory;  
15 a data structure within the shared memory for storing the dynamic information needed to generate the customized information page; and  
means for responding to a request with an information page containing dynamic information from the data structure formatted according to the template generated for  
20 the user making the request.

2. The server system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of user processes execute on a plurality of servers, the server system further comprising a means for assigning one of the plurality of servers to users who send requests to the server system but do not already have an associated user process.

25 3. The server system of claim 2, wherein the means for assigning servers is a means for assigning a specific server to a particular user, such that the particular user is assigned the specific server for each request.

30 35 4. The server system of claim 3, further comprising a cache for caching templates for recently serviced users on each of the specific servers assigned to particular users.

5. The server system of claim 1, further comprising a cache for caching templates for recently serviced users.

6. The server system of claim 1, further comprising  
5 means for generating default user configurations based on user demographic information.

7. The server system of claim 6, further comprising  
means for determining a default list of cities for a weather  
10 report and sports teams for sports reporting based on user demographic information.

8. The server system of claim 7, wherein the means  
for determining the default list of cities and default lists  
15 of sports teams uses user postal code information, the server system further comprising:

means for translating postal code information to user geographic position;

means for comparing the user geographic position to  
20 geographic positions assigned to each city and sports team;  
and

means for determining a threshold distance from the user geographic position which is greater than or equal to a distance to a predetermined nonzero number of cities and a  
25 predetermined nonzero number of sports team geographic positions.

9. A method of serving custom news pages, comprising the steps of:

30 collecting current security quotes for each of a plurality of selectable securities;

collecting current sports news and scores for each of a plurality of selectable sports events;

35 collecting current news headlines which reference news articles;

formatting the current security quotes, current sports news and current news headlines into a data structure stored in a shared memory;

accepting a request for a custom page from a user;  
in response to the request, reading a user template  
for the user from a template database, wherein the user  
template describes a layout of a custom news page customized  
5 for the user;

populating a page based on the read user template  
and the current data stored in the data structure in the  
shared memory to form a custom news page; and

providing the custom news page to the user in real-  
10 time response to the request.

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